

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:WBSMITH:DJB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016203

L.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IS XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ATTITUDES TOWARD A PALESTINIAN STATE

1. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED OF RESULTS OF PORI POLL TAKEN IN ISRAEL DECEMBER 4-15, 1975 WHICH INCLUDED QUESTIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE, ON WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS.

2. FIRST QUESTION READ AS FOLLOWS: "IN PRINCIPLE, ARE THE PALESTINIANS ENTITLED TO A STATE OF THEIR OWN?" ANSWERS WERE: YES - 43 PERCENT, MAYBE - 11 PERCENT, NO - 38 PERCENT, NO COMMENT - NINE PERCENT.

3. SECOND QUESTION PRODUCED RATHER INTERESTING RESULTS: "ARE YOU FOR OR AGAINST AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP, PROVIDED THEY (THE PALESTINIANS) RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AND STOP ALL HOSTILITIES?" ANSWERS WERE: YES - 30 PERCENT, MAYBE - FIVE PERCENT, NO - 59 PERCENT, AND NO COMMENT - SIX PERCENT. WHAT MAKES
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THESE RESULTS STRIKING IS COMPARISON WITH ANSWERS TO SAME

QUESTION IN JUNE 1974 POLL, WHICH WERE: YES - 14 PERCENT,
ONLY IN PART OF AREAS - SEVEN PERCENT, NO - 71 PERCENT,
NO COMMENT - EIGHT PERCENT. THUS, IF POLLS WERE ACCURATE,
NUMBER OF ISRAELIS PREPARED TO SEE INDEPENDENT WEST BANK/

GAZA PALESTINIAN STATE DOUBLED FROM JUNE 1974 TO
DECEMBER 1975 AND NOW INCLUDES ONE IN EVERY THREE
ISRAELIS.

4. WE NOTE THAT EMBASSY IN ITS YEAR-END POLITICAL ASSESS-
MENT (TEL AVIV 8193 OF DECEMBER 29, 1975) CONCLUDED THAT
"OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS REGARDS ESTABLISHMENT
OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE AS NATIONAL SUICIDE,"
BUT FROM CONTEXT, EMBASSY APPEARED TO BE REFERRING TO A
STATE WHICH WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNDER PLO CONTROL. IN
ITS COMMENT ON PORI RESULTS, EMBASSY SHOULD OF COURSE
DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PALESTINIAN ENTITY DOMINATED BY
PLO AND ONE NOT SO DOMINATED IN ASSESSING ISRAELI PUBLIC'S
VIEWS. SISCO

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